

STATE OF COLORADO

Department of Higher Education
DIVISION OF PRIVATE OCCUPATIONAL SCHOOLS

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NOTICE

To: Massage School Directors

From: Jim Parker, Director, Division of Private Occupational Schools

Date: June 24, 2008

Re: Massage Therapy required state registration with another state agency and its affect on Private Occupational Schools regulated by DPOS

The Honorable Governor Bill Ritter, Jr., recently signed Senate Bill 08-219 into law requiring the registration of massage therapists to practice in Colorado. Beginning April 1, 2009, and after, a person in this state who practices massage therapy or who represents oneself as being able to practice massage therapy **must apply for a valid registration through the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (“DORA”), Division of Registrations (not the Division of Private Occupational Schools / DPOS).**

SB08-219 sets forth the minimum educational and training standards for persons to become a registered massage therapist to practice in the State of Colorado. Accordingly, every applicant for a registration to practice massage therapy is **required** to complete the following:

1. A minimum of 500 hours of education and training from an approved school (Division of Private Occupational Schools (“DPOS”), Colorado Community College System or program accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency);
2. Pass one of the following examinations:
 - i. Massage & Bodywork Licensing Exam offered by the Federation of State Massage Therapy Board;
 - ii. National Certification Examination offered by the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork; Or
 - iii. Examination approved by the Director of Registrations; And
3. Submit to a Criminal History Record Check.

Although this new registration requirement comes under the general regulatory authority of DORA, as that department goes forward to implement this new legislation, all ***Private Occupational Schools approved to offer massage therapy education and training will be affected in the following manner.*** Please, consider this advanced notice that all Division of Private Occupational Schools approved to offer massage therapy education and training will be required **at a later date:**

- (1) To submit to DPOS, revised program curriculum for massage therapists that comport with the above minimum standards and any related criteria for an applicant's DORA registration eligibility;
- (2) all instructors at a DPOS school currently teaching massage therapy will be expected to comply with this new registration requirement by the April 1, 2009 effective date, and that proof of state registration be reflected in the school's instructor file; and
- (3) that all prospective massage therapy students be informed of this new occupational requirement so that upon their completion of your massage therapy program the student is aware and able to comply with the new registration requirement.

The final version of SB08-219 may be viewed by visiting the DPOS website <http://www.highered.colorado.gov/dpos> , by reviewing "News & Announcements" / "Important Notices".

For specific questions regarding the registration of massage therapists, please contact DORA, the Division of Registrations at (303) 894-7800.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice, please contact your assigned Program Specialist.